

THE INTELLIGENCER.

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WHEELING, W. Va.—

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 14, 1855.

A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE Sons of Temperance is now in session in Wheeling, embracing representations from all organized divisions of States, Territories and Provinces in North America. The Convention was opened on Wednesday last with a procession and public exercises at the Institute Hall.

THE STEAM FIRE ENGINE purchased by the city of Boston, at a cost of \$8,000, is still remaining neglected in the city's stable, and has not been put into condition since its arrival to be used. This is entirely owing to the hostility of some of the members of the Boston, city council, to the introduction of the machine.

THE BRITISH RECAUTED CASE IN BOSTON.—The case of Philip Gauftman, for enticing from N. York seven men (Irish and Germans), for the purpose of enlisting them in the British service, came up for hearing on Thursday, before M. Lynch. The officer who arrested the prisoner, stated that the latter had said "he was not aware that the young men were to be employed as soldiers until he had reached that city, when and where he was made acquainted with the fact by the agent."

According to the testimony of Lynch and Cole, the Alien Commissioner was quite anxious that Gauftman should be liberated. The case was postponed until Friday next. The Courier says—"It is estimated that a thousand men have been shipped from this port by British agents, and that most of them have since been enrolled as soldiers. The United States Marshall and his deputies are now on the alert and are determined to head up this system of recruiting for the English army."

SILVER CHASER.—The United States Treasury is now burdened with the custody of over five millions of dollars in silver change, from half-dollars to three cent pieces. Two or three years ago there was a universal complaint of the scarcity of small coins, either American or foreign. Mr. Hunter's coinage bill was passed, slightly reducing the actual value of our silver coin and providing for its more rapid manufacture. The expected results have followed. Two wants of circulation have been fully supplied. It is said that orders have been issued to suspend the coining of quarters and halves, and the operations of the Mint are much reduced.

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE.—A negro was found at City Point the other day with a forged pass in his possession, and it appears probable that he was a runaway, he was taken in custody, securely locked up in a box-car, and the train started for Petersburg. Upon the arrival of the train at the Southside depot (says the Express,) the car was unlocked, but lo! and behold, like the Irishman's flea, Coffee was not there. By dint of extraordinary strength he had forced the lock, and while the train was proceeding at lightning speed, leaped to terra firma, and made for parts unknown—at least to those who had him secured. Though a strong athletic fellow, that he should have escaped from his security fastened prison-car, is a matter of universal surprise.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.—The Third Triennial Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the diocese of California, assembled in Trinity Church, San Francisco, on the 9th ult., and adjourned on Thursday to meet again at the stated period, the first Wednesday in May, 1853. The Convention was called to order and presided over by the Rev. Wm. Ingram Kip, D. D., as yet Missionary Bishop of California. Nine parishes were represented in the Convention, two at San Francisco, and one each at Sacramento, Marysville, Stockton, Oakland, Nevada, Umatilla and Benicia. A constitution was adopted for the several parishes. The next convention will probably elect delegates to send and ask admission into the General Convention of the United States at its next session.

AN EXTRACT FOR THE TIMES.—It would be difficult, if not impossible, to crowd more ideas than those of greater practical importance into an equal space than is contained in the following extract from the Farewell Address of the illustrious Father of his Country. It should be "kept before the people." Washington, in that noble address to the people of the United States with which he closed his public career, tells us that "there will be always reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken" the bonds of the Union. Some of the benefits which would result from mutual intercourse so thus presented.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds, in the productions of the latter, great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise, and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South in the same intercourse, benefits by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand.

Turning partly into its own channels the scum of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it increases its influence over those relating to slavery. These areimotoable, and meet no very serious opposition—slavery will be up and more likely to-morrow. A great debate is expected. The South will be in a position to defend its cause, and what is heretofore considered as the chief of its difficulties will be removed.

The majority resolution is as follows: Resolved, That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was an infliction of the plighted faith of the Nation, and that it should be restored, and if efforts to that end shall fail, Congress should refuse to admit any State to the Union which it shall be formed out of any portion of the Territory from which that institution was excluded.

In the Council Mr. Mallory of New York's no discussion was needed. He argued insistently if any man there would not succeed to the will of the majority. Gov. Gardner of Mass., took up the gauntlet and declared that he neither desired nor his State, nor majority of the Free States would be in the position he first reported. The party could not carry a vote in Massachusetts upon them. He charged the New York delegation with dexterously dividing the North, and of even going so far as to complain to the South that they were concealing too much to the North.

Gov. Gardner made a bold, earnest speech, protesting against the resolutions of the majority. The Council adjourned to 8 o'clock this evening, when the debate will be resumed. A long and violent discussion is anticipated. The resolutions of the majority will undoubtedly pass.

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The 104 o'clock, Council is still in session. A full discussion is going on, on resolutions other than those relating to slavery. These areimotoable, and meet no very serious opposition—slavery will be up and more likely to-morrow. A great debate is expected. The South will be in a position to defend its cause, and what is heretofore considered as the chief of its difficulties will be removed.

The delegates to the American Know Nothing Convention visited Carpenter's Hall this afternoon, where the first Continental Congress held its session in 1774. Out of the Hall grow the thunders of the Revolution. The Hall was tastefully decorated with flags and inscriptions on the walls. Kotterman's celebrated picture of Patrick Henry, in his speech before the Virginia House of Representatives, has a place in the Hall. The delegates were welcomed by C. J. Wilber, and was responded to by Mr. McCall, delegate from Key West, Florida, who saluted very briefly to the platform which the Convention was about to form, in hopes of harmonizing all sections, and thus rendering the union perfect. After his speech, Messrs. Seymour of New York, Morris of Alabama, Alderman Freeman of Philadelphia, and Jones of Tennessee, were called upon, but there were no responses, and the assemblage quietly dispersed.

The Know Nothings are making great preparations for a grand Mass Meeting on Saturday evening next, at Independence Square, by which time the platform now preparing by the Committee will most probably be adopted by the Convention, and ready for promulgation. It is anticipated that there will be an immense throng.

THE balance in the National Treasury is reduced to eighteen and a half millions of dollars, being a fall off from the highest point of ten millions of dollars.

J. T. Boal, formerly of New York, composed a sonnet at Sonora by blowing off the top of his head with a pistol. It is said that as much as \$30,000, and even more, is often paid for this species of advertising.

AN ingenious chemist has sent a bottle of London fog to the Paris exhibition, as a specimen of raw material.

The Know Nothing National Convention.

SIXTH DAY—MONDAY.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, June 11, 1855.

The meeting this morning amused itself with expending a great deal of indignation and wonder over the reports of the Council in Tribune. Extracts from its correspondence of this morning were read, and a variety of measures suggested for discovering the leak. Broder Barker of New York, proposed, sweeping each member to see if he had told any of the secrets of the Order. Gen. Wilson suggested if members would drink less liquor and talk less freely and loudly in public places, they would have less cause for complaint on this score. Members too should be careful that gentlemen whom they talk with "let on them to what is done. Some veracity is execusable, but the greenness of supposing that every gentleman who is stopping at the hotel is a fellow member, is literally that of a know-nothing. Finally the Convention appointed a Committee of three to investigate as to how the reports in the New York paper got out. Let me recommend to Judge Edmonds' voluminous works on Spiritualism, and to the highest authority on the laws of acoustics. A few weeks' careful study of these sciences will give them an idea or two get-nome to their investigation.

Ex-President Barker took occasion this morning to deny having taken a contract for the "Live Oak" candidate as he was interested in the reports on the authority of Mr. Daniel Ullman and others, and he also showed some documents of an affidavit of Senator Wilson's that the New York Herald got its report from the George Law office.

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Major Backus.

During the attack upon the city of Monterey, General Garnett's brigade entered the city, and after a fierce conflict in the streets, pushed it way to a Mexican battery, which opened a tremendous cannonade upon the column, by which the loss many men. Garnett's voice was then heard above the din of battle, "Retire in good order."

Major Backus had lost several men, but enough had joined him, from companies broken up during the fight, to swell his command to a hundred or more. With these he had seized a strong stone building near the battery whose fire had been so fatal to our troops, and mounting the flat roof, instantly determined to hold his position. The remainder of the brigade retired from the city, the guns of the battery were then turned upon the building, against which the iron storm thundered, shattering stone and mortar in all directions.

Backus seized a musket, and taking deliberate aim, fired into the battery, and, finding it within reach of his shot, he ordered his command to pour in a rapid and steady fire. In a few minutes he observed the enemy waver, and then all but the killed and wounded ran off, leaving their guns unmanned. Then he turned his fire on a large force who had taken post on the roof of a church. A half-dozen rounds sent them tumbling over the sides to the ground. Major Backus then descended from his post with ten men to reconnoiter. After passing up the street some distance, he turned to regain his position, but found himself cut off by a large column of Mexican soldiers, who were rapidly advancing upon him. Here was a dilemma. To retreat was out of the question. The Mexican army was behind him. To stand and fire upon the enemy was certain death. They outnumbered him fifty to one, and did not lack courage in battle. So the gallant Major instantaneously determined to charge them with the bayonet, and, forming his men in line across the street, with a loud shout they charged upon the full run, the gimmer of the cold steel repeated like magic; Mexican column halted; the front files wavered; on went the ten Yankees, like lightning like tigers; from their files turned about to get behind the second, the third, &c., but on went the ten Yankees, their burning bayonets glittering in the sunbeams, resolved to sell their lives dearly; on went twenty feet of the head of the column, the whole body was on a keen run, as though the d—d was after them, and the Major recognized his post had not been filled by the original regiment and took possession of the battery, without loss of a man.

After the victory was taken Major Backus called on "Old Zach," in whose regiment he had long served in Florida. "The General asked me about the resolution you took to-day," said Backus, "was that you would not sustain me in it?"

"Sustain you!" said the old veteran, and his eyes glowed with that wondrous fire "I will sustain any man who keeps his face towards the enemy,"—Detroit Free Press.

"I am glad to have the testimony which several gentlemen gave in the Council to-day to the satisfaction of my friends and myself," said Backus, "but I am sorry that several of them did not make their appearance fully vindicated. I congratulate The Tribune on its being the first journal in the world to inaugurate this new means of extracting life and intelligence from dumb and inanimate walls and empty benches."

(By Telegraph.) Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune, Philadelphia, Monday, June 11, 1855.

The Committee on Resolutions reported to the Council this afternoon the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That the American party, having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious or violated pledges of either that the systematic agitation of the Slavery question by those parties has elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril. It has therefore become the